



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3

Meeting Date: October 21, 2013
Meeting Location: Juvenile Justice Center
1000 South Michigan
South Bend, IN

Council Members Present: Fay Russell, Regional Manager DCS; Teresa Zornig, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS; Pam Whisman, Marshall County DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County DCS; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko County DCS; William Horton, FCM Supervisor St. Joseph County DCS.

Council Members Absent: Linda Cioch, Director St. Joseph County; Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Magistrate Deborah Domine; Don Phillips, Bashor; James Pheilbush; Scott Filley.

Others In Attendance: Joni Tusing, DCS; Mike Lewandowski, SCAN; Mike Marchi, Memorial Epworth; Janet Rathberger, DCS; Shelly Overgaard, YSB; Marzy Bauer, YWCA; Candy Yoder, CAPS; Leah Plank, CAPS; Libby Martin, LSSIN; Tracy Morris, Lifeline; Christine Beckman-Johnson, DCS; Emily Robinson-Johnson, Oaklawn; Hong-phae Nguyen, DCS.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Fay Russell.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 9-16-2013 reviewed. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager noted the budget figures should be amended to reflect the August totals. Bill Horton motioned approval of the minutes as amended. Michael Carroll seconded. Motion carried.
3. Community Partners Update. Mike Lewandowski reported for Community Partners, expenditures at \$188,123 which is a little ahead this year, paring it down. Contract services are not using as much flex funds in August. Mike reported that this happens when you receive a lot of money mid-year. Region 3 is hitting the optimum number of families faster. Total September referrals: 177. Program outcomes; initial contact within 5 days attainment -1%, difficulty getting a hold of clients within the 5 day timeframe, they are working with staff to improve on this outcome. Local Prevention dollars for August total: \$43,948. Mike reported that they are behind on spending here. They have picked up more services with the start of the school year and Mike predicts it should even out.
4. Service Update. Jeff Bedree, Regional Service Coordinator, is in Allen County today for a QSR meeting. Hong-phae Nguyen reported that they are still in negotiations on RFPs reported on last month. The Resource Family Support Services RFP bidding closes on November 1st.

Fay Russell reported on the Biennial Strategic Plan, public testimony will take place at 10:00 a.m. but will be prior to the RSC meeting on November 18th at CAPS in Elkhart. Fay welcomes those who would like to attend and those who would like to provide testimony. The first committee meeting will follow that afternoon at 1:00 p.m. The committee includes the Regional Management team, some Supervisory staff, Juvenile Probation, Joni Tusing, Jeff Bedree, and quality improvement staff. If interested in serving on the committee, please contact your Local County Director, Jeff Bedree, or Fay Russell.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager reported that the regional budget is not completed yet so no percentages of budgets spent YTD are reflected on this report. The Family and Children fund total; \$2,892,258 in September with Child Welfare at \$1,637,902 and Probation \$1,254,356. First Quarter total \$9,084,382 being slightly high. YTD September budget comparison noted care of wards higher in placements and institutions. Joni stated that Region 3 is in good shape overall.

6. Vice Chair, nominations taken by Fay Russell. Teresa Zornig nominated Tony Sommer, William Horton seconded. Vote taken, all in favor, 0 opposed. 1 abstention. Motion carried.

7. County Updates.

Marshall County -Michael Carroll, Director, completed interviews on new clerical staff and are ready to hire. Fay Russell reported that Michael is participating in the Executive Leadership Course.

Kosciusko County - Erin Shidler, Director, reported assessments busy, they have hired one new FCM, and are in the process of hiring clerical staff also.

St Joseph County - Teresa Zornig, Division Manager, reported that Lauren Corzett started today as FCM Supervisor, and the County is also in the process of hiring 3 clerical staff.

Elkhart County -Tony Sommer, Director, reported they hired Wendy Disher as FCM Supervisor in assessment, Wendy started this morning.

Regional—Fay Russell, Regional Manager, reported construction on the Hotline office has started. The hotline continues to receive more reports, cannot anticipate the volume and number of workers. A lot of overtime work. Surge in assessments is not unique to Region 3.

7. Other Business. Fay has received several emails on the provider market discussed during the September meeting and wanted to clarify. DCS would not be involved in coordinating this event but would encourage staff to attend. It is up to the providers if they wish to put together a forum to display services to local DCS staff. Fay Russell noted that the management team is very busy during the end of the year and would recommend that providers look at the first quarter of 2014 for this event. Providers can contact Jeff Bedree or Hong-phee Nguyen, Regional Service Coordinators.

Fay Russell announced that she is leaving and has taken another position with the State. Fay reported that she will continue to oversee the Biennial Strategic Plan and will be coming back periodically as needed. She appreciates everyone that attends the meeting. “This is the best region in the State, and I always let people know that!”

Erin Shidler motioned adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Next RSC Meeting – Monday, November 18th, 10:00a.m. at the Joy Rose Center, 1000 W Hively Avenue, Elkhart, IN. The Biennial Strategic Plan Public Testimony will take place at 10:00 a.m., prior to the RSC Meeting.